

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference D80966PC	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/EP2004/003211	International filing date (day/month/year) 26.03.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 28.03.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC		
Applicant STOCKHAUSEN GMBH		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a. ☒ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 5 sheets, as follows:

☒ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/003211

Box No. I

Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-49 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1-14 _____ received by this Authority on 10.12.2004 with letter
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on of 09.12.2004
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/3-3/3 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/003211

Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	13	YES
	Claims	1-12, 14	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	13	YES
	Claims	1-12, 14	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-14	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

D1: WO 02/79269 A

D2: US 2001/0007043 A

D3: WO96/40809 A

The present application relates to a method for separating monomers with at least one double bond from a composition Z containing this monomer and at least 0.001 % by weight water as an impurity different from the monomer, with the method comprising the following steps:

Z is brought into contact with an additive having a melting point of no more than 150 °C and a vapour pressure at 20 °C of no more than 1 mbar, in such a way that a separation phase is formed and the monomer is separated from this separation phase.

Document D1 is the closest prior art document and discloses (see the passages cited in the international search report) the separation of a monomer from a polymer in the presence of an ionic fluid as additive, wherein the polymer is precipitated and eliminated. The additives used have melting points of between -72 °C and 62 °C. Examples of the monomers used include metacrylic acid and

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acrylic acid. Furthermore, during the polymerisation according to example 4 benzene is used as solvent. According to the *Fluka Chemikalien-Katalog* (1997/98), page 185, the concentration of water in absolute-purity benzene (Fluka No. 12553) over a molecular sieve is $\leq 0.005\%$. Since the main component of the reaction mixture Z is benzene (10 mL), it is assumed that the mixture contains at least 0.001 % by weight water as impurity. Consequently, the subject matter of claims 1 and 14 is considered not novel over document D1.

Claims 2-12 contain no features which, combined with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.

Claim 13 concerns a device for synthesising a monomer. Document D2 (see the passages cited in the international search report) is the closest prior art document and differs from the subject matter of claim 13 in that only three inflows and outflows are present in the contact region and in that there is no outflow (6).

Proceeding from document D2, this additional feature is not considered obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Consequently, the subject matter of claims 1-12 and 14 does not satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 33(2). The subject matter of claim 13 meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and (3).